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Letter dated 30 July 2004 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on Security Council resolution 1556 (2004) on the Sudan, issued on 30 July 2004 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Dirk Jan **van den Berg**
Permanent Representative of the Kingdom
of the Netherlands to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 30 July 2004 from the Permanent Representative of the Netherlands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Statement on Security Council resolution 1556 (2004) on the Sudan issued on 30 July 2004 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union

The Presidency of the European Union welcomes United Nations Security Council resolution 1556 (2004) on the Sudan, which was adopted today. The Presidency of the European Union supports the urgent call on the Government of the Sudan to fulfil immediately all the commitments it made in the joint communiqué of 3 July. Regarding the commitments of the Government of the Sudan concerning the Janjaweed militias and leaders, the Presidency welcomes the request by the Security Council to the Secretary-General to report in 30 days and monthly thereafter, as well as the intention of the Security Council to consider further actions in the event of non-compliance by the Government of the Sudan, including measures as provided for in Article 41 of the Charter of the United Nations.

The Presidency of the European Union urges the parties to the N'Djamena ceasefire agreement of 8 April 2004 to reach a political agreement without delay. It fully supports the appeal made by the Security Council to rebel groups to respect the ceasefire, to end the violence immediately and engage in peace talks without preconditions.

The Presidency reiterates the determination of the European Union to continue to play an active role for the improvement of the situation in Darfur and recalls in this respect the Council conclusions of 12 and 26 July. In this light a European Union civilian and military expert team will travel to the region in the coming week to assess urgently how best to further support the African Union Observer Mission, including the protection force.

The Presidency looks forward to continuing its close cooperation with the United Nations, in particular with Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Jan Pronk, the African Union, the United States and other relevant players.